IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5, with the following paragraph:

The standard detection techniques are then carried out as described in Figures 1-5. Figure 6 is a special application in which detection is accomplished without the interference of any immobilizing matrix or reaction vessel wall. This special detection system eliminates any background emission from materials other than the tag, and hence it is more sensitive than the matrix dependent method. By lowering the background to near zero, the measurements are more accurate and precise since they do not depend on the quality of materials used in the production of disposable tips. The results are expressed in positive values rather than the negative correlations seen in competitive ~~radioimmunassays~~ radioimmunoassays (RIA's). In a competitive RIA system, the amount of radioactive label seen or counted decreases as the target molecule being detected increases. In the Near Infrared Molecular Assay (NIRMA) of the present invention, an increase in level or concentration of the target molecule directly corresponds to an increase of dye, and hence an increase in light emission.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6, with the following paragraph:

Figure 5A shows an FEP tube 140 (24 gauge) with a plug ~~141~~ 132 composed of activated ground glass sandwiched between two plastic porous (porex) discs 141, 142. The tube 140 fits into a pressure fitting with an "O" ring 143 to seal the tube.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 15, with the following paragraph:

Figure 6A shows a type 2 disposable tip 150 which has the same external disposition as the tip in Figure 5B except for a double window in front and back of the ATA 156. Internally, the tip 150 has a small bore tube 151 specially designed to bring a small microliter bubble 152 in front of the detection window. The tube end 153 is designed so as not to touch the internal wall of the tip. Also, by beveling the tube ~~150~~ 151, one increases the surface area for better surface adherence of the bubble.